

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 190511
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 HA-05 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01
ICA-11 SS-15 NSC-05 PM-05 /065 R

DRAFTED BY EA/PHL:RWTEARE:CSA
APPROVED BY EA:RBOAKLEY
EA/P:JCANNON (DRAFT)
EA/PHL:JSARTORIUS
H:DKENNEY (INFO)

-----111395 280215Z /14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, RP, US

SUBJECT: MRS. MARCOS' MEETING WITH HOUSE MEMBERS

REF: MANILA 12897

1. WE NOTE IN USICA WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS (REFTEL) THAT SOME WIRE-SERVICE ACCOUNTS CHARACTERIZE MRS. MARCOS' JULY 26 MEETING WITH REP. BERKLEY BEDELL AND OTHER HOUSE MEMBERS AS "STORM". ONLY ACCOUNT WE HAVE SEEN IS REUTER, SOURCED TO REP. BEDELL HIMSELF (SEE EA PRESS SUMMARY FOR JULY 27) WHICH DOES NOT RPT NOT DESCRIBE THE SESSION IN SUCH TERMS. MEETING HAS RECEIVED NO PRESS PLAY HERE.

2. ACCOUNTS AVAILABLE TO US INDICATE THAT THE MEETING WAS REASONABLY POLITE AND COURTEOUS, ALTHOUGH CHARACTERIZED BY TOUGH QUESTIONING AND COMMENTS FROM ALL BUT ONE OF THE
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DOZEN OR SO REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT AND APPARENTLY BY EQUAL FIRMNESS ON HER PART IN HER REPLIES. SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ON TORTURE AND INDIVIDUALS WERE PRESSED BY CONGRESSMEN AS WELL AS GENERAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS. SHE REPORTEDLY INVITED ALL PARTICIPANTS TO VISIT THE PHILIPPINES "TO SEE FOR YOURSELVES."

3. ONE CONGRESSIONAL SOURCE TOLD US MEETING ACCOMPLISHED ITS PURPOSE FROM HOUSE MEMBERS' STANDPOINT, WHICH WAS TO LET MRS. MARCOS KNOW THERE IS WIDESPREAD CONCERN ON THE HILL ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THE PHILIPPINES. IN SOURCE'S OPINION, MRS. MARCOS HAD NO NEW ARGUMENTS TO ADVANCE AND DID NOT CHANGE ANYONE'S MIND.

4. ON PHILIPPINE SIDE, WE HEARD FROM ONE MEMBER OF FIRST LADY'S ENTOURAGE (PERHAPS WITH UNUSUAL CANDOR) THAT MEETING AMOUNTED TO A STAND-OFF. MRS. MARCOS HERSELF WAS VERY AGITATED OVER THE CRITICISM SHE RECEIVED AND MADE NO SECRET OF IT IN TALKING TO THE VICE PRESIDENT ON JULY 27 (SEE SEPTEL). CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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